



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Chris Tincher
405-790-1009
Cell: 405-826-3036

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOOKING FOR A WARM FUZZY VALENTINE? SEE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE HOME A LIVING LEGEND

(San Marcos, Texas – Feb. 13-15, '03.) Just in time for the Valentine weekend, the Bureau of Land Management is bringing 100 wild horses, called Living Legends, to the Hays County Civic Center in San Marcos, Texas, Feb. 14 and 15.

These animals known for their endurance and strength are looking for a good home and are now available for adoption to qualified individuals.

This event is open to potential adopters, families and spectators alike. Admission is free. There will be opportunities to meet with Wild Horse and Burro staff and past adopters, including Paige and Guy Rhodes. The Rhodes recently adopted Charlie Brown a long-time mascot for the Bureau of Land Management. Charlie will be on site Saturday morning to visit with old friends.

Spectators are also invited to watch Chris Erlon, experienced wild horse adopter, as he performs gentling demonstrations with a wild horse. Chris is a member of the Least Resistance Training Concepts association, and is known as a Wild Horse Mentor. Through this association, Chris works with interested individuals to help them gain a positive adoption experience. Due to his success with his own adopted animals and contributions to the mentoring program, Chris was named mentor of the year last September.

There will be 60 yearlings (young horses) born in Kansas at this event as well as mature mares and studs. The public can preview animals beginning Thursday afternoon, Feb. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. and again on Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The oral competitive bid starts at 10 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday. The minimum bid is \$125 for qualified individuals. All animals must be picked up by 2 p.m. on Sat. in a pre-approved stock trailer. Bidders must be at least 18 years of age and have no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. Applications are available on site.

For more information, visit: www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov and select adoptions held in the New Mexico Region, or call toll free at **1-866-4-Mustangs**.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.

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